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MEMO DATED MAY 7, 2004](#)

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MEMO DATED MAY 14, 2004](#)

REVISED

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

May 11, 2004

Assembly Bill 2064 (Goldberg) is an important piece of state legislation that proposes new guidelines for the State Parks Department in future state bond acts with regard to how urban parks are defined and designed. In addition, it provides for a portion of expenditures to be made on park-poor underserved areas, in proportion to other conservation efforts. The bill further helps clarify that in the future, state park projects can include active recreation uses in heavily urbanized areas (Counties of 500,000 or more). 2000 State bond dollars for Cornfields and Taylor Yards State parks had restrictions that would not allow active recreation uses even in urbanized areas like Cypress Park and Chinatown. This amendment to future state bond measures is an important step in equalizing the distribution of park resources throughout the state.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board send a five-signature letter to the Legislature, in support of AB 2064, as amended on May 3, 2004, and further direct the Director of County Parks and Recreation to speak on behalf of this bill at the ~~May 12, 2004~~ upcoming state hearing.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

May 7, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 2064 (GOLDBERG)—STATE CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN PARKS AND PARK POOR AREAS (ITEM NO. 16, AGENDA OF MAY 11, 2004)**

Item No. 16 on the May 11, 2004 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Molina to send a five-signature letter to the Legislature in support of AB 2064 (Goldberg), and to direct the Department of Parks and Recreation Director to speak on behalf of this bill at the May 12, 2004 State hearing.

AB 2064, as most recently amended on May 3, 2004, would: create a new classification of "urban parks" within the State park system; require the Director of State Parks and Recreation to adopt a definition of "park poor"; provide that, for the purposes of State grants, "active recreation" be included in recreational purposes, and that "facilities" include places for active recreation, as well as public beaches; and, declare that future bond acts should allocate moneys to park poor areas. The bill defines urban state parks as those in a heavily urbanized county, with a critical lack of park and open-space lands, deteriorated park facilities, and/or with significant poverty and unemployment, high youth crime rates, at-risk youth, and a shortage of youth services. A "heavily urbanized county" is defined as having a population of at least 500,000 and a density of at least 1,100 per square mile.

The Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee's analysis states that there are areas in Los Angeles County that have just 0.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 people, while the State minimum standard is 3 to 4 acres and the National standard is 5 acres per 1,000 people. The urban core areas have been developed with high residential and commercial densities, but without corresponding increases in public amenities such as parks. AB 2064 would focus attention on urban

parks and provide opportunities to use bond funds to change this situation. The bill would allow for grants to be made for facilities for active recreation and public beaches, which were not specifically allowed in the past. **Therefore, the Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Parks and Recreation recommend that the County support AB 2064, and we concur.** Support for AB 2064 is consistent with County policies which support the inclusion of beaches in the definition of parks for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs, and funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space.

AB 2064 was passed by the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media on April 13, 2004, by a vote of 10 to 1, and by the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife on April 20, 2004, by a vote of 10 to 4. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee, where it is waiting to be scheduled for a hearing. The Committee reports did not identify any registered support or opposition to the bill.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DRS:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Department of Parks and Recreation





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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

May 14, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
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From: David E. Janssen   
Chief Administrative Officer

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**REVISED MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 2064 (GOLDBERG)—STATE CLASSIFICATION  
OF URBAN PARKS AND PARK POOR AREAS (ITEM NO. 11 AGENDA OF  
MAY 18, 2004)**

Item No. 11 on the May 18, 2004 Agenda is a revised motion by Supervisor Molina to send a five-signature letter to the Legislature, in support of AB 2064 (Goldberg), and directing the Director of County Parks and Recreation to speak on behalf of this bill at the upcoming state hearing. The motion was continued from the Board's May 11, 2004 meeting. This report supplements the attached May 7, 2004 memo, as additional information has become available.

In addition to the provisions of AB 2064 described in our May 7 memo, the bill requires the Director of the State Department of Parks and Recreation (SPR) to create an administrative function in the department, using existing resources, to address the needs of park-poor areas. The responsibilities of the new function will be to coordinate and administer programs to assist in funding, developing, and rehabilitating urban state parks, as well as to establish criteria for funding grants and programs to acquire, develop, and rehabilitate urban state parks.

The County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) would like additional funding for urban park areas, however, DPR is concerned about these provisions because they would expand SPR's responsibilities beyond its mission, thereby infringing on areas such as the development and use of urban parks and active recreation, which have traditionally been the function of local parks and recreation departments. DPR concurs with the attached May 10, 2004 letter from the California Parks and Recreation Society (the statewide advocacy group for parks) to the bill's author that suggests she find an alternative means to create an "urban state park" classification, with a new source of funding that is consistent

Each Supervisor  
May 14, 2004  
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with SPR's mission. That mission, which includes campgrounds, historic and cultural sites, and wilderness and open space, should not conflict with local parks and recreation departments' mission, and should still allow local agencies to compete for funding.

The Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) also would like additional funding for park-poor areas and the inclusion of public beaches in the bill's definition of facilities, which could improve grant opportunities, but it has concerns about the bill's potential impact on grant programs, particularly under Proposition 40. Although the bill declares that future bond acts should allocate funds to park-poor areas, there is no specific prohibition against using past bond act funds to carry out the intent of this bill. It is also unclear whether the criteria for determining what is a "park-poor area" will be applied to an entire county, or only to certain communities, thus excluding other areas that are now eligible for grants.

Both DPR and DBH are not recommending a position on AB 2064 because of their concerns. Support for AB 2064 is consistent with County policies, which support funding for the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and the inclusion of beaches in the definition of parks for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs; however, DPR and DBH have raised concerns about the bill. **Therefore, it is recommended that the County support AB 2064 in concept, and that the Board instruct the County's Sacramento advocates and the affected departments to work with the author on amendments that would resolve their concerns.**

AB 2064 was introduced on February 17, 2004. It was passed by the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media on April 13, 2004, by a vote of 10 to 1, and passed by the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife on April 20, 2004, by a vote of 10 to 4. It was referred to the Appropriations Committee, where it is scheduled for hearing on May 19, 2004. The Committee reports did not identify any registered support or opposition to the bill.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DRS:ib

#### Attachment

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
        County Counsel  
        Department of Beaches and Harbors  
        Department of Parks and Recreation





# County of Los Angeles

## CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
 Chief Administrative Officer

May 7, 2004

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 Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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 Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
 Chief Administrative Officer

### **MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 2064 (GOLDBERG)—STATE CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN PARKS AND PARK POOR AREAS (ITEM NO. 16, AGENDA OF MAY 11, 2004)**

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parks and provide opportunities to use bond funds to change this situation. The bill would allow for grants to be made for facilities for active recreation and public beaches, which were not specifically allowed in the past. **Therefore, the Departments of Beaches and Harbors and Parks and Recreation recommend that the County support AB 2064, and we concur.** Support for AB 2064 is consistent with County policies which support the inclusion of beaches in the definition of parks for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs, and funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space.

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DEJ:GK  
MAL:DRS:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Department of Parks and Recreation



May 10, 2004

The Honorable Jackie Goldberg  
State Capital Building  
Sacramento, CA 95603

RE: Concerns: AB 2064: Urban parks

Dear Ms. Goldberg:

On behalf of the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS), I am writing to respectfully submit our concerns to the above reference bill. CPRS is very appreciative of your efforts on this legislation and on behalf of the local park community as a whole. However, it is incumbent upon our organization to comment when appropriate to provide a constructive critique of AB 2064 and offer alternatives to meet your objectives.

It is our understanding that the genesis of this bill is rooted in the events surrounding the acquisition and proposed development of the "Cornfields/Taylor Yards" property in downtown Los Angeles. Understandably, the delays and inherent bureaucracy associated with bringing this project to closure has caused considerable frustration. CPRS would submit that this incident was isolated and, to the best of our knowledge, has been reconciled to the satisfaction of all. A project in the East Bay involving the acquisition and development of state parks-owned lands for active recreation was similarly resolved to stakeholder satisfaction. Perhaps providing for a mechanism to streamline these types of complex projects is warranted to avoid future delays. CPRS would actively support such a remedy. However, CPRS believes that AB 2064 is a bit far reaching in its approach

There appears to be an assertion in AB 2064 that the State Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) is not appropriately staffed nor equipped to aid urban park development. CPRS would argue that through DPR's Local Assistance Division and its administration of nearly \$2 billion in community parks funding via Propositions 12 and 40 that DPR parks has been very sensitive to urban parks needs. If there are perceived deficiencies in the allocation of local park funds to meet "active recreational needs" the blame should not fall on DPR. Rather, if there are deficiencies, they can be directly attributed to previous state budget actions wherein billions of dollars in property taxes have and continue to be shifted to the state to address chronic deficit scenarios. These are discretionary dollars that are no longer available to California's cities, counties and park and recreation districts, the state's traditional local "active recreation" service providers.

In our opinion there must be a clear delineation in terms of state park's presence in urban settings. Few would disagree that state parks should have a presence in urban settings, however, design standards associated with such parks should be consistent with the department's mission.

In reviewing the May 3rd version of AB 2064 CPRS submits the following comments:

SEC. 2 Section 5019.54 is vague in its construction. In casting this new definition of "urban state park" can it be assumed that all parks that meet both (1) and (2) including locally operated parks fall within this definition?

5019.54 (b) creates a new duty or responsibility wherein local agencies have typically been charged with such responsibilities. At this juncture, DPR mission prevents the department from operating active recreation venues. However, nothing in current law precludes DPR from sponsoring or participating in such recreational pursuits. Again, CPRS does not believe that we need to introduce a new entity to the operation of active recreation in urban settings.

5019.4 (A) Local Assistance Division within DPR currently carries out the functions articulated in this section. This is a duplication of effort. (B) Criteria developed under the Urban Parks act Grant Program, Murray-Hayden Grant Program and the Youth Soccer and the Healthy Communities Programs are developed in a uniform manner and allow for fairness and equity in the distribution of competitive grant awards.

SEC 3. 5625 (d) If it is the intent of the author to create a classification of parks and to create a funding source in which to do so, this section of law currently sets out an allocation formula for per capita funding for cities, counties and special districts with park functions. DPR would not be an end recipient of these funds. Funds awarded through the Per Capita Grant Program, the RZH Program, Murray-Hayden, Urban Parks Act, Youth Soccer and Healthy Communities are specifically designed to meet active recreational needs and, in fact, there is not a single grant program administered by DPR under Propositions 12 and 40 that are passive recreation oriented exclusively.

In closing CPRS understands and sympathizes with the intent of AB 2064. CPRS concurs that California's park poor communities are the most deserving of new funding to address social, recreational and community needs. However, CPRS would respectfully urge the author to pursue an alternative approach to meet this concern.

In our opinion, a suitable alternative would be to create a new classification of park, within state parks an "urban state park," if you will, and establish a new funding program designed to channel new funds including future park bond act proceeds into this program for recreational pursuits that are consistent with DPR's mission. Local park professionals are trained to meet the active recreational needs of California and DPR has always strongly advocated for the expansion of such programs within the service delivery models established by locals.

Again, CPRS appreciates your efforts on this front and looks forward to continued dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Gallagher  
CPRS Legislative Chair  
Director LA County Parks

cc     The Honorable Judy Chu, Chair Assembly Appropriations Committee  
       Jane Adams, CPRS Executive Director  
       Doug Houston, CPRS Advocate